

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03
PA-01 ICA-11 TRSE-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 EUR-12
NEA-10 /085 W
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R 240749Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0652
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CSAF WASHDC
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA
HQ/PACAF HICKAM AFB HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 15316

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, JA
SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS US CONCERN OVER JAPANESE MID-AIR
TRAINING PLAN

1. BEGIN UNCLASS: ASAHI AUGUST 21 CARRIED STORY BY
WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT MURAKAMI QUOTING UNNAMED USG
"NATIONAL-DEFENSE-CONNECTED" SOURCE TO EFFECT THAT
ASDF REQUEST FOR MID-AIR TRAINING MAY BE UNREALISTIC.
ARTICLE SAID THAT ASDF MADE REQUEST DURING PRELIMINARY
NEGOTIATIONS WITH USAF ON COMBAT-TECHNIQUES TRAINING FOR
ASDF PILOTS WITHIN US.

2. ARTICLE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT US OFFICIALS WELCOMED
JAPANESE REQUEST BECAUSE OF SLIGHT BALANCE OF PAYMENTS
EFFECT AND ALSO BECAUSE ASDF WAS FINALLY LOOKING AT
IMPORTANT PROBLEM OF "COMBAT CAPABILITY." HOWEVER, IT
WENT ON TO QUOTE USG OFFICIAL AS SAYING THAT JAPANESE
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REQUEST FOR "DIFFERENT AIRCRAFT COMBAT TRAINING" (DACT)
WOULD BE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO FULFIL DUE TO LOW TECHNICAL
LEVEL AND LACK OF TRAINING OF ASDF PILOTS COMPARED WITH
US, ISRAELI, UK AND FRG COUNTERPARTS. ARTICLE NOTED
THAT TRAINING WOULD BE CONDUCTED WITH F-4, SINCE F-15
WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR ASDF PILOTS.

3. ARTICLE SPECULATED THAT LOWERING DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY OF DACT MIGHT HURT JAPANESE PRIDE. INEVITABLE COMPARISON WITH PILOTS OF OTHER COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY ROK AND ROC, AND POSSIBILITY OF CASUALTIES FROM TRAINING CONTRIBUTED TO UNEASINESS IN US OVER JAPANESE "AMBITIOUS PLAN." END UNCLASS.

4. BEGIN CONFID.: TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, PILOT TRAINING IN US, UNRELATED TO NEW A/C PROCUREMENT, WAS FIRST BROACHED BY JDA AT SSC MEETING LAST JANUARY. ASDF HAS SINCE PURSUED ITS DESIRE TO OBTAIN DACT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BUT HAS REQUESTED IT WITH F-4 AND NOT WITH F-15 AS IMPLIED BY ARTICLE. WHILE ARTICLE CORRECTLY POINTS OUT DIFFICULTIES ATTENDANT UPON THIS ADVANCED FORM OF TRAINING, GENERAL TONE IS MISCHIEVOUS. MANSFIELD

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NNN

Message Attributes

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